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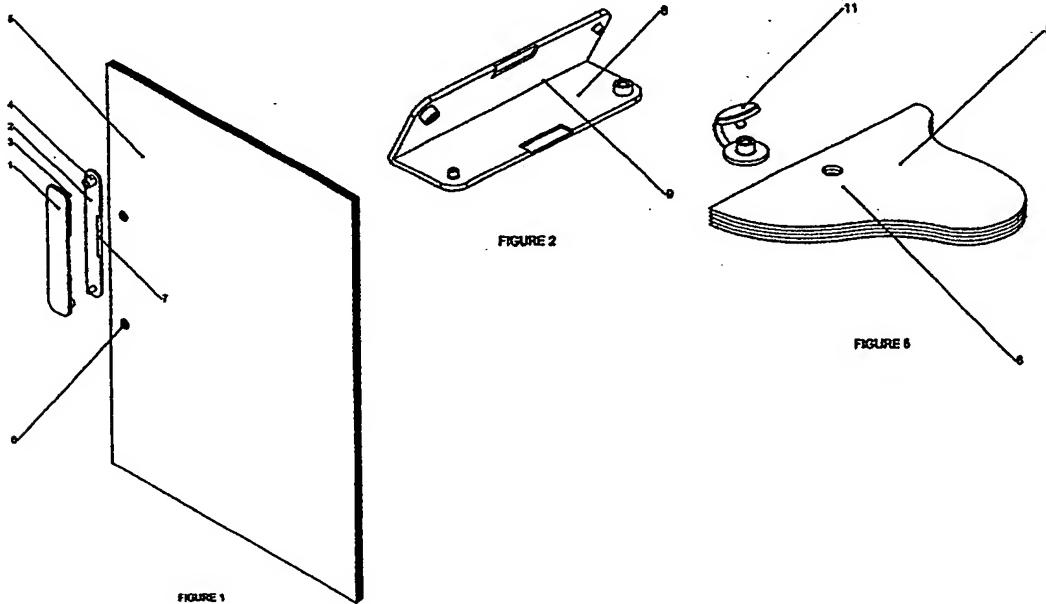
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(72) Inventor(s) Bruce Stanley John Hutchison Alasdair Max Barnett	(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition R) B6E ECEC INT CL ⁷ B42F 3/00 13/12 13/14 13/13 13/34 13/40 Online:EPODOC,JAPIO,WPI
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(54) Abstract Title
Document binder clip to group together sheets

(57) A clip for fastening documents 5 together comprises two parts 1,2 which have a push-fit pin 3 and socket 4 arrangement to allow them to engage holes 6 in the sheets 5. The clip can protect and strengthen the holes 6 in the sheets 5 and can provide rigidity to the back of the document 5. The clip is provided in a number of embodiments which include: a clip comprising a single part 8 divided by an integral hinge 9 (fig 2); identical and reversible parts (fig 3); a clip to engage a single individual hole 6 (figs 4 and 5); a clip including a descriptive label (12, fig 6); a clip with a pen or pencil holder (14, fig 7); and, a clip with turned-up ends (16, fig 8) to aid separation.



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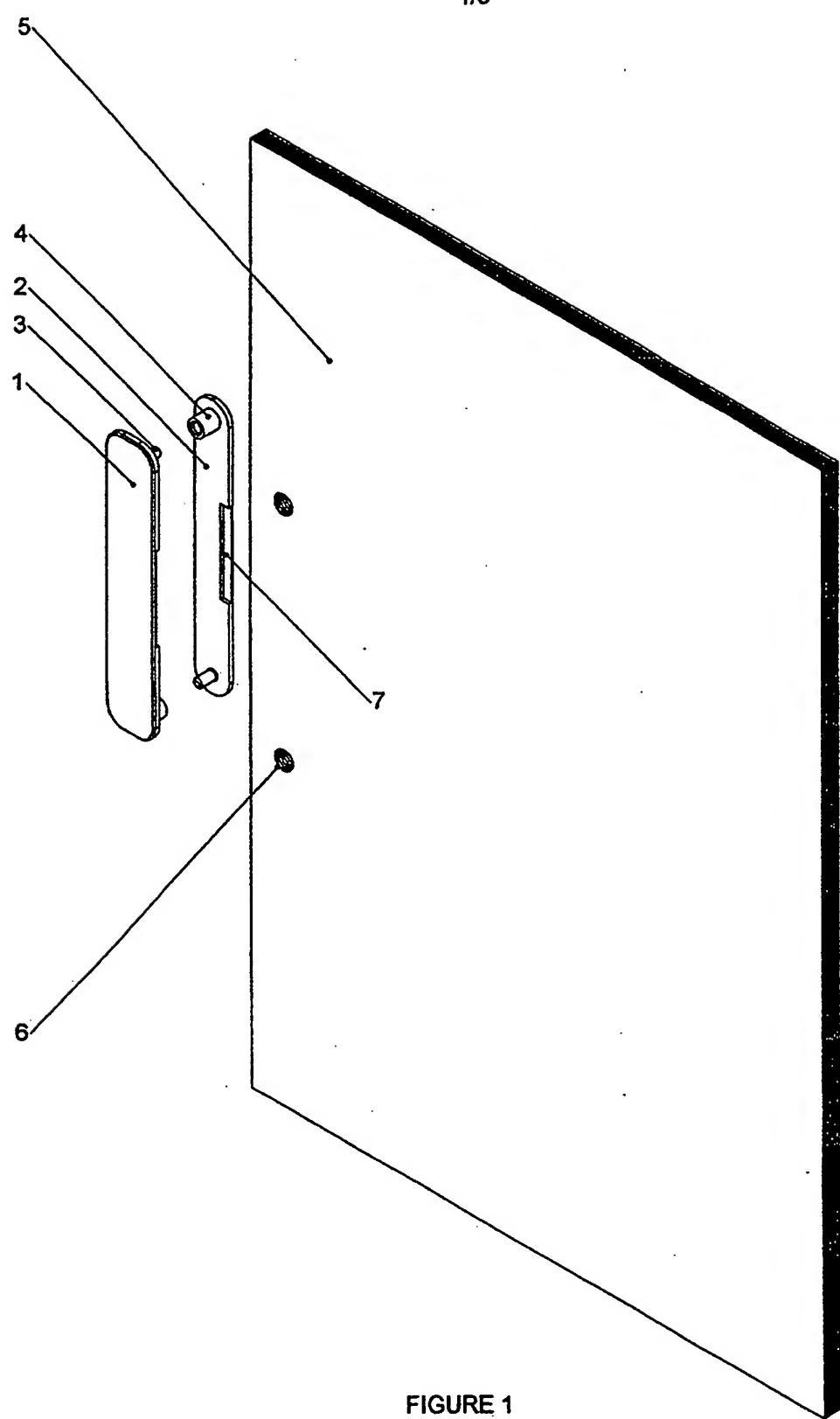


FIGURE 1

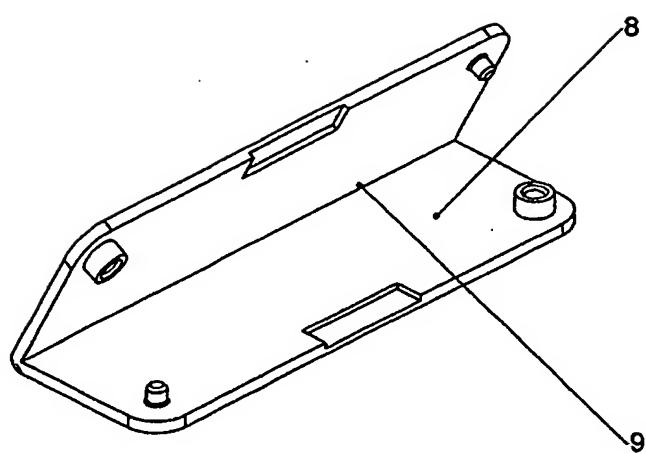


FIGURE 2

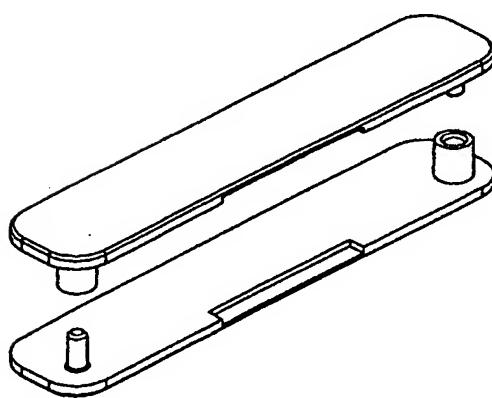
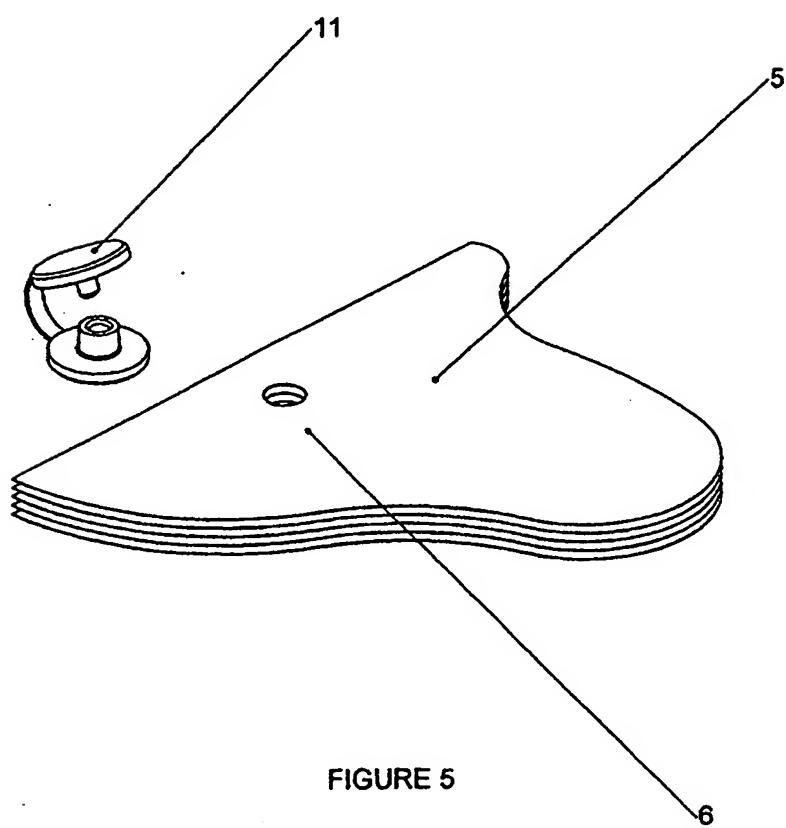
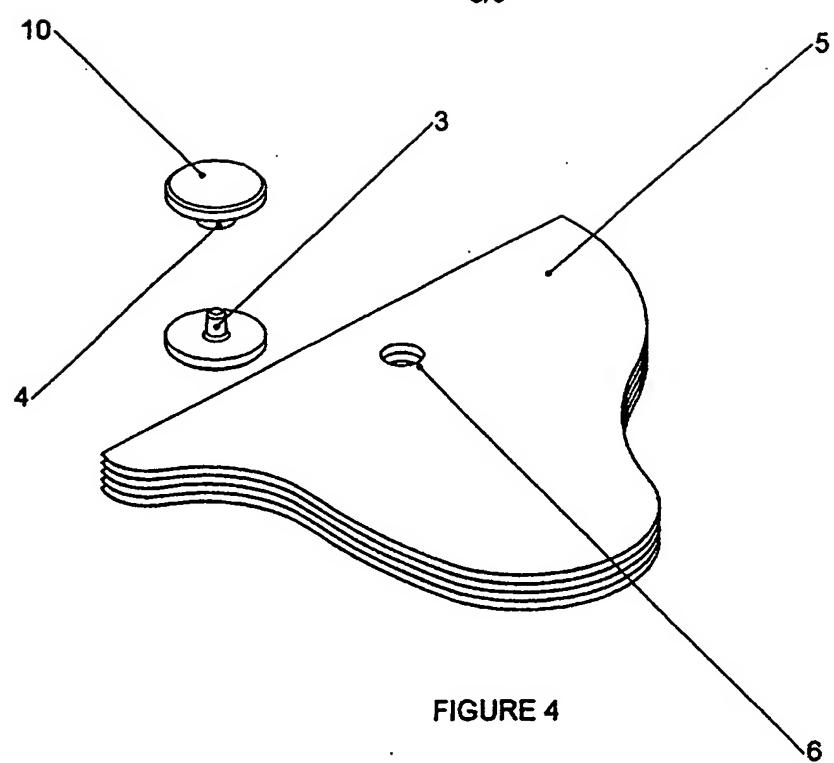


FIGURE 3

3/5



4/5

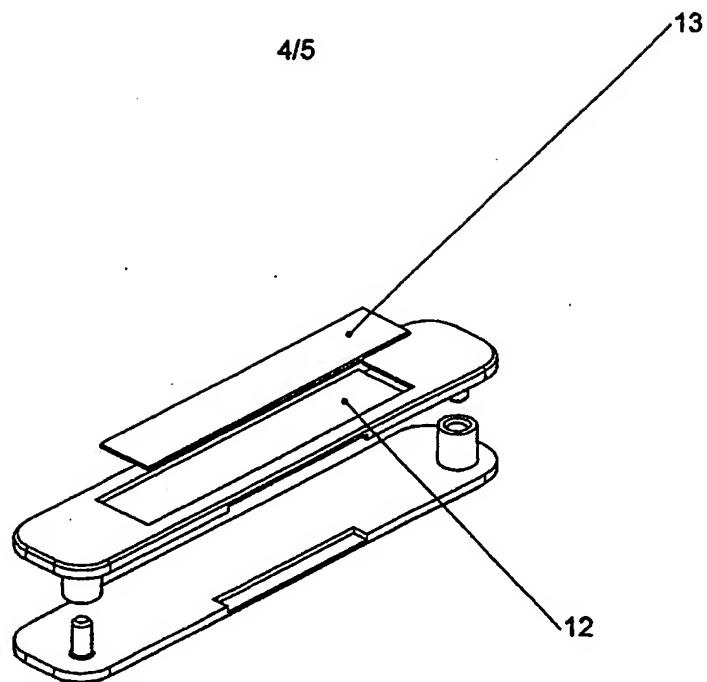


FIGURE 6

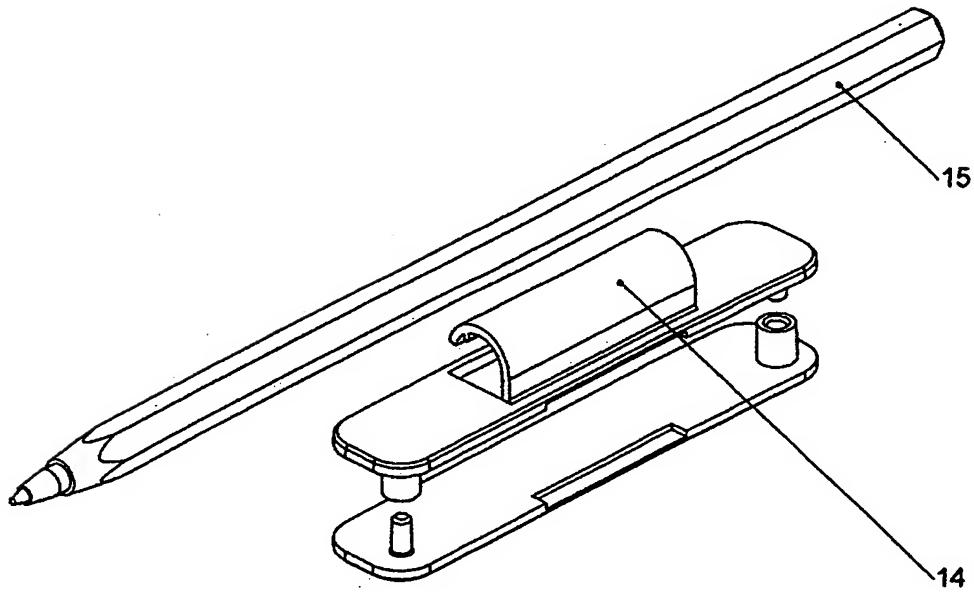


FIGURE 7

5/5

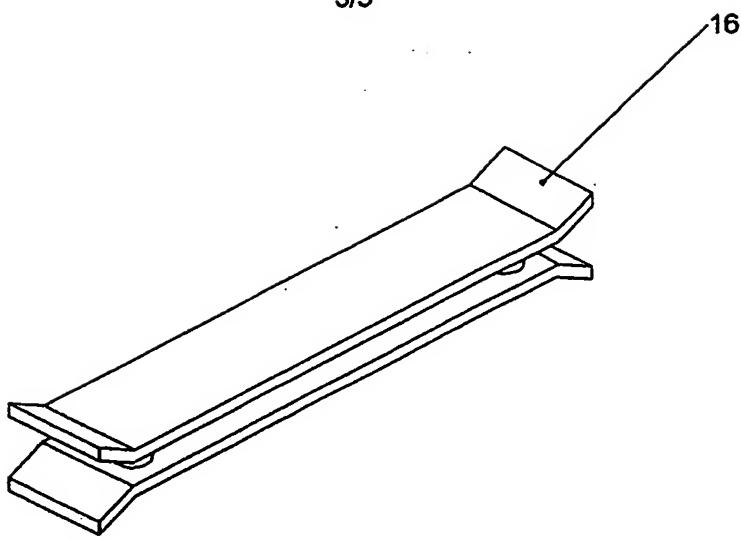


FIGURE 8

This invention relates to a document clip.

Existing paper connection devices such as staples make separating sheets for individual access ie for faxing/photocopying difficult once stapled together while paper clips are non-permanent and paper is easily loosened. Both have limited functionality and do not protect the punched holes which tend to rip easily and both do not keep edges rigid. An alternative solution is to place sheets into a clear sleeve, however for access the sheets must be removed from the sleeve separating the sheets once again.

According to the present invention there is provided a small clip that is easily releasable and consists of a pin and hole push-fit of parts to connect a number of loose sheets via pre-punched holes to create a document clip. The clip can then support the punched holes and stop paper from being accidentally ripped out.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :

FIG 1 is perspective exploded view of a typical clip with document ;

FIG 2 is a perspective view of an alternative single part hinging document clip ;

FIG 3 is a perspective view of an identical/reversible document clip ;

FIG 4 illustrates an alternative individual hole clip ;

FIG 5 illustrates an alternative hinging individual hole clip ;

FIG 6 illustrates a feature to locate a descriptive label ;

FIG 7 illustrates a feature to store a writing instrument ;

FIG 8 illustrates an alternative feature to aid releasing parts.

Referring to the drawings a typical document clip is shown in FIG 1 and consists of a top plate 1 and clamping plate 2 each with a corresponding pin 3 and hole 4 which push-fit together thus connecting loose sheets 5 via pre-punched holes 6 to create a stand alone presentation document. To release the parts to access individual sheets a feature 7 is used.

Figure 2 illustrates an alternative single part document clip 8 with an integral hinge 9.

Figure 3 shows an alternative document clip with identical and reversible parts which connect sheets of paper 5.

Figure 4 illustrates an alternative individual hole clip 10 which connects a pre-punched hole 6 separately via a similar pin 3 and hole 4 arrangement.

Figure 5 shows an alternative hinging individual hole clip 11.

Figure 6 illustrates a feature 12 to locate a descriptive label 13 to differentiate documents when in a storage configuration.

Figure 7 illustrates a feature 14 to store a writing instrument 15.

Figure 8 illustrates an alternative feature 16 to aid releasing parts.

The document clip could be manufactured in a variety of colours to guide the user to relevant coded sub-divided documents. Accordingly, the document clip includes a configuration that is simple and cost-effective to manufacture and can include a variety of sizes and shape variations. The length of the clip can also increase to provide extra support along a joined edge.

Claims

- 1 A document clip comprising of two easily releasable push-fit parts which connect a number of individual sheets through pre-punched holes to create a document clip.
- 2 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1 which protects and strengthens pre-punched holes in the connected sheet material and also provides rigidity along the joined edge.
- 3 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 comprising of a single part with an integral hinge.
- 4 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 with identical and reversible parts.
- 5 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 which connects sheets via an individual/independent pre-punched hole.
- 6 A document clip as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the clip consists of a single hinging part.
- 7 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a descriptive label to differentiate documents when filed in a storage product.
- 8 A document clip as claimed in Claim 1-2 wherein a feature is provided to store a writing instrument.
- 9 A document clip substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1-8 of the accompanying drawing.



Application No: GB 9926366.7
Claims searched: 1-9

Examiner: Brendan Churchill
Date of search: 30 May 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): B6E (ECEC)

Int Cl (Ed.7): B42F (3/00, 13/12, 13/14, 13/34, 13/40)

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2324503 A (YUEN) See snap-fit parts 15,16 and hinge part 11	1,2
X	GB 2252938 A (FOLDERS GALORE) See the snap-fit rivet of figure 3	1,5
X	GB 2192588 A (MAHONEY) See push-fit pegs and sockets 20,21 and hinges 14,15	1,2
X	GB 1424667 (ALPA STEEL & PLASTICS) See figures with push-fit parts 5,6 and hinge 2	1-3
X	WO 88/02311 A1 (SORENSEN & GRAM) See figures 13-17	1-3
X	US 3757389 (WILAND) See figure 1 showing push-fit parts 10,12 and hinge 28	1,3,5,6
X	US 3612709 (KING JIM) See figure 5 showing push-fit parts 4,5 and hinge 7	1-3

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
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